

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1716

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1 & 2
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON AS OF JUNE 23

SUMMARY: RELIABLE UN SOURCES HAVE PROVIDED READOUT ON SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON AS OF JUNE 23. MAJORITY OF HADDAD'S MEN ARE OBEYING ORDERS TO REMAIN INACTIVE. MILTIAS ARE, IN GENERAL, REFUSING TO PERMIT UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT BUT THERE IS SOME PROGRESS IN TAKING UP POSITIONS ON PERIPHERY OF ENCALVES. ERSKINE, AT GENERAL BEN GAL'S SUGGESTION, HAS RECOMMENDED GOL RECOGNIZE HADDAD AS LAF CHIEF IN SOUTH LEBANON. SIILASVUO STRONGLY DISAGREES. PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION CONTINUES DESPITE ARAFAT'S COMMITMENT. END SUMMARY

1. TWO RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE UN SOURCES (BOTH US) GAVE US IN-DEPTH BRIEFING ON SOUTH LEBANON JUNE 23. REPORTEDLY, ERSKINE MET WITH GENERAL BEN GAL JUNE 22. LATTER ALLEGED CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WERE "OUT OF CONTROL." REMEDY WOULD BE FOR BEIRUT TO RECONGIZE HADDAD AS LAF COMMANDER IN THE SOUTH. THIS WOULD PERMIT REACTIVATION OF HIS FORCES AND HADDAD'S STANDING AND INFLUENCE WITH MILITIAS WOULD BE
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RESTORED. HADDAD WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO FACILITATE GRADUAL DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL INTO ENCLAVES.

2. SIILASVUO IN MESSAGE TO UNNY REPORTEDLY DIASGREED. HE THOUGHT BEN GAL'S SUGGESTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FROLIC AND, IN ANY CASE, HOSS AND GOL COULD NOT PUBLICLY BACK DOWN. SIILASVUO ALSO REPORTEDLY BELIEVES HEAT MUST BE

KEPT ON IDF TO GET MILITIAS TO COOPERATE WITH UN. HE
PLANS TO SEE EITAN EARLY NEXT WEEK. (SIILASVUO IS EN ROUTE
TO DAMASCUS AND ALEPPO FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH FINNS.)

3. UNIFIL FIELD OFFICER SAID MILITIA LEADERS REFUSE TO
PERMIT UNIFIL ENTRY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE UN HAS NOT AND IS
NOT PREVENTING PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION. IN THIS, THEY
ARE CORRECT, SOURCE REPORTS. SOURCE STANDS BY UNIFIL'S
ESTIMATE 150 200 ARMED PALESTINIANS IN THE AREA. IN
ADDITION, THERE ARE "SEVERAL HUNDRED MORE" WHO HAVE INFIL-
TRATED UNDER CURRENT UN GUIDELINES TO PERMIT ENTRY OF
UNARMED CIVILIANS. SOURCE IS CONCERNED THAT THESE
PALESTINIANS, WHO MOVE ABOUT FREELY AND UARMRED, COULD
QUICKLY MARRY UP WITH ARMS CACHES KNOWN TO BE BE IN THE AREA
THEREBY MULTIPLYING ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE. UN
SOURCE SAYS EITHER ARAFAT LIED WHEN HE PROMISED NO INFIL-
TRATION (SOURCE'S THEORY) OR INFILTRATORS BELONG TO GROUPS
OVER WHICH FATAH HAS NO CONTROL.

4. UNIFIL ATTEMPTS TO DISLODGE ARMED PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN
TO NO AVAIL. PALESTINIANS SIMPLY SAY THEY HAVE A RIGHT
TO BE IN THE AREA AND THAT THEY WILL FIGHT TO THE
DEATH ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO MOVE THEM.

5. APPARENTLY, MILITIA HAD MISTAKEN IDEA UNIFIL INTENDED
TO DISARM THEM. AT WORKING LEVEL, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE
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TO DISABUSE THEM AND SOME SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. UNIFIL
HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO TAKE UP A FEW POSITIONS ON THE PERIPHERY
OF THE ENCLAVES.

6. THE "GOOD FENCE" NOW HAS OPENINGS AT 15 OR 16 SITES.
MILITIA ARE HEAVILY ARMED AND RECEIVE SUPPLIES FROM ISRAEL ON A DAILY
BASIS.

7. SYG HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO ERSKINE OVER PRESS REPORTS
OF UNIFIL'S ROLE IN FACILITATING SUPPLY OF PALESTINIANS IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON. WALDHEIM REITERATES THIS WAS AN AD HOC
ARRANGMENT IN CONTEXT OF PLO ASSURANCES TO REFRAIN FROM
INFILTRATION AND 5-POINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN AL HOSS AND
ARAFAT. WALDHEIM REQUESTS UP-DATED ESTIMATE OF NUMBERS
AND LOCATIONS OF PALESTINIANS COVERED BY ARRANGMENT TO
PERMIT TRANSIT OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES.

8 COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO ONGOING US AND UN EFFORTS WPTH
GOI CONCERNING THE CHRISTIANS, WE SHOULD SEEK TO EXERT
WHATEVER LEVERAGE IS AVAILABLE ON ARAFAT AND CO. TO
CALL OFF INFILTRATION. IF PLO DOES NOT INTEND TO LAUNCH
ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, WHY ARE THEY

INFILTRATING THEREBY COMPLICATING UNIFIL'S TASK AND IN-
CREASING RISK OF CLASHES WITH CHRISTIANS?

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